REMARKS

By the above amendment in the accompanying RCE, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite the feature that the buffering/fixing material has a specific resistance of 10^{11} Ω · cm to 10^{12} Ω · cm, as described at page 27 of the application. More particularly, as described when the buffering/fixing layer 10 is constituted of a completely insulated body, electrons are charged in the buffering/fixing layer giving rise to problems such as image retention and lowering of contrast. To avoid the occurrence of such charging, a specific resistance of about 10^{11} to 10^{12} Ω · cm is imparted to the buffering/fixing layer 10, wherein a trace amount of conductive particles is mixed into the buffering/fixing layer 10, and a filler which controls the resistance value is mixed into the conductive material. Accordingly, the original specification provides clear basis for the features as now recited in independent claims 1 and 7 of this application.

Applicants note that in view of the finality of the office action and based upon discussion with the Examiner on January 15, 2008, that the recitation of a specific resistance, as now recited in the claims, would appear to raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration after final rejection, and would apparently not be entered in response to the final office action, an RCE and the accompanying amendment have been presented.

As to the rejection of claims 1, 4 - 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori (US 5,599,749) in view of Kuroda et al (US 6,265,822), and the rejection of claims 7, 10 - 12 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori (US 5,599,749) in view of Kuroda et al (US 6,265,822) and Uchiyama (US 6,265,770), such rejections are traversed insofar as they are

applicable to the present claims, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that each of independent claims 1 and 7 recite the feature of a buffering/fixing material which is formed by mixing an adhesive with a highly resilient material and includes conductive particles and material having a light shielding property therein so that the characteristic or property of the buffering/fixing material is a mixed material of conductive particles and materials having a light shielding property, as well as having a specific resistance of $10^{11}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm to $10^{12}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm, as now recited in each of claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims.

Turning to Hattori, the Examiner refers to a "buffering/fixing material (not numbered; column 21, lines 60 - 67)". Irrespective of the Examiner's contentions, this portion of Hattori indicates that a spacer 70 coated with adhesive may be utilized with of a low melting point being used as the adhesive. Further, Hattori suggests that "Instead of the glass spacer, adhesive such as epoxy resin containing dispersed glass beads may be used as the spacer." Thus, applicants submit that Hattori provides no disclosure or teaching of a buffering/fixing material being formed by mixing an adhesive with a highly resilient material including conductive particles and material having a light shielding property therein. Additionally, Hattori provides no disclosure or teaching that the buffering/fixing material has a specific resistance of $10^{11}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm to $10^{12}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm, as now recited in independent claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims of the application. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims recite features not disclosed or taught by Hattori, such that all claims patentably distinguish thereover, and should be considered allowable.

As recognized by the Examiner, "Hattori does not specifically teach that the buffering/fixing material includes conductive particles". However, the Examiner cites Kuroda et al to overcome this recognized deficiency of Hattori contending that "Kuroda et al teaches a display device (fig. 5a) in which the use of a buffering/fixing material that is made of conductive particles mixed with light shielding material (20a; column 21, lines 31 - 42) is used for a distance holding member ..." (emphasis added).

Turning to Kuroda et al, applicants note that column 21, lines 31 - 42, referred to by the Examiner, refers to a conductive thin film 29 formed by baking Pd amine complex solution, a fluorescent film 20 as an image forming member has fluorescent stripes of respective colors and that a black color material 20a is disposed not only between fluorescent stripes of respective colors, but also in the X-direction to thereby separate pixels in the Y direction and reserve the areas for mounting the spacers 22. The black color material (conductive material) 20a was first formed, and then fluorescent material of respective colors were coated in spaces formed by the black color material to form the fluorescent film 20. However, applicants note that in accordance with the present invention, the buffering/fixing material is provided between the distance holding members within the display region and at least one of the front substrate and the back substrate, as recited in claims 1 and 7. Applicants submit that in accordance with Kuroda et al, spacers 22 are adhered together at their junctions with other structural features, and as described in column 22, lines 13 - 17, electrical conduction between the carbon nitride film 23 of the spacer 22 and the face plate 19 on the black color material 20a, was ensured by using conductive frit glass 26 containing silica balls coated with Au. Thus, it is apparent that the black color material 20a and the junction members 26 of Kuroda et al are formed separately,

and Kuroda et al does not disclose or teach the buffering/fixing material, as claimed, including a mixture of conductive particles and material having a light shielding property, as recited in claims 1 and 7 of this application. Furthermore, irrespective of the contentions by the Examiner, applicants submit that Kuroda et al provides no disclosure or teaching that the buffering/fixing material has a specific resistance of $10^{11}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm to $10^{12}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm, as now recited in claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims thereof. Thus, applicants submit that claims 1 and 7, as amended, patentably distinguish over Kuroda et al taken alone or in combination with Hattori in the sense of 35 USC 103 and all claims should be considered allowable thereover.

With respect to Uchiyama, the Examiner contends that Uchiyama teaches the use of a buffering/fixing material in the display device that is made of an adhesive material mixed with a highly resilient material referring to column 7, lines 19 - 26 of Uchiyama. Irrespective of the Examiner's contentions, applicants submit that column 7, lines 19 - 26 of Uchiyama disclose the base material of the circuit substrate 3 as being of a first material of aramid fiber or composite material of glass fiber and aramid fiber and a second material of polyimide resin or BT (bismaleid triazine) resin. Irrespective of this disclosure of a base material of a circuit substrate, applicants submit that it is not seen that Uchiyama discloses or teaches that a buffering/fixing material is provided between distance holding members within the display region and at least one of the front substrate and the back substrate, that the buffering/fixing material is formed by mixing and adhesive with a highly resilient material, that the buffering/fixing material includes conductive particles and material having a light shielding property therein, and that the buffering/fixing material has a specific resistance of $10^{11}\Omega \cdot$ cm to $10^{12}\ \Omega \cdot$ cm, as now recited in claims 1 and 7 of this application. Applicants submit that Uchiyama does not disclose or teach the recited

features, and Uchiyama, taken alone, or in combination with Hattori and/or Kuroda et al, which also do not disclose or teach the recited features, fails to provide the claimed features as recited in claims 1 and 7 of this application. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims recite features not disclosed or taught by the aforementioned cited art taken alone or in any combination thereof, such that claims 1 and 7 should now be in condition for allowance.

With regard to the dependent claims, applicants submit that the dependent claims, when considered in conjunction with parent claims 1 and 7, recite further features of the present invention, such that the dependent claims should be considered allowable therewith.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims present in this application should be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action and favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.42899X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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